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Yesterday and today

Today is the 341st day of 2011. There are 24 days left

in the year.

On this date

□ In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1941, the Imperial Japanese navy launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as part of a plan

to preempt any American military response to Ja-pan's planned conquest of Southeast Asian territories; the raid, which claimed some 2,400 American lives, prompted the United States to declare war against Japan the next day. In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the

Today's birthd Actor Eli Wall philosopher No: sky is 83. Actress Ellen

79. ☐ Broadcast jou ole Simpson is Singer-songw Waits is 62. Basketball Ha Larry Bird is 55

NFL player Te is 38. Singer Aaron

POLITICS

To counter Gingrich, Romney shifts strate

plane to crash.

After losing his front-runner status, candidate makes himself more available

By CHARLES BABINGTON

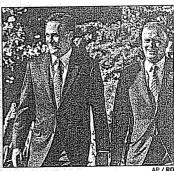
WASHINGTON - Mitt above-the-fray Romney's campaign style kept him atop the Republican presi-dential field for months, but it's raising concerns among his supporters now that Newt Gingrich has surged to challenge him.

Some Romney backers say their candidate must mix it up more aggressively, with Gingrich and with reporters, to prove he has the moxie to be the GOP challenger to President Obama. Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, particularly caused concerns with his prickly responses in a recent Fox News interview. He needs to show more toughness and willingness to field questions, party insiders say.

The message seemed to resonate with his campaign resonate with his campaight Tuesday. Romney said he will appear on Fox News Sunday on Dec. 18, his first national Sunday talk show in nearly two years. He also fielded questions from reporters covering his Arizona visit, marking his third such "press availability" in four

The announcement came the same day as a CBS News/ New York Times poll showed Gingrich with a double-digit lead over Romney among Republican caucusgoers in Iowa.

The poll, conducted from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5, shows Gingrich with 31 percent support to Romney's 17 percent. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Tex-as, was third with 16 percent.



Mitt Romney, left, in Paradise Valley, Ariz., Tueso he was endorsed by former Vice President Dan Q

Numerous Romney sup-porters had expressed concern over reports of him dodging reporters and in-depth questioning. "It remains a mystery why Mitt Romney has done rela-

tively few interviews," Jennifer Rubin, a conservative blogger for The Washington Post who often praises Romney, wrote on Monday. The much-discussed Nov. 29 Fox interview, she said, might have gone better "had it been one of dozens of TV interviews he'd given during the campaign. ... He's been the least-interviewed candidate in the race."

In his 15-minute exchange with Fox News' Brett Baier, Romney bristled at questions about his changed views on abortion, climate change, immigration and gay rights, all of which are widely discussed in political circles.

Romney acknowledged rejecting his pro-abortion-rights stand of the 1990s, although he did not explain why. Otherwise, he told Baier, "Your list is just not accurate." Romney suggest-

ed the question spired by "Dem that label him flopper.

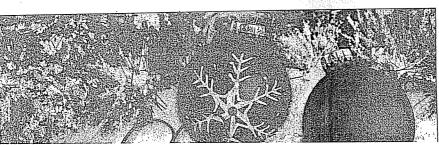
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The question cal of those the stream news or oddball quer

On Tuesda hinted he might up his criticism "I will not t

told Cavuto. "S rich is a frien But we have v life experiences

Romney said spent the past 4 in Washington, an insider." Ro only elected e four years as N governor, say. bring a more ented, outside



WEST VIRGINIA

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\$210 million will go to pay families of the 29 killed, for safety upgrades and for fines chief, Hughie I